

A NEW "BIBLE"
FOR ALL RELIGIONS.
Chicago Achieves a Biblical
Wonder That Will Suit
All Creeds.
So Treated That It Offends
Neither Christian, Jew Nor
Mohammedan.
Agnostics Will Find Nothing in It
from Which to Argue Against
Teaching Superstition.

DESIGNED FOR THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Joseph's Story Given as a Serial, Job
Used as a Book of Nature and Material
Reasons Advanced for Obey-
ing Divine Law.

Chicago, Feb. 15.—After years of agitation and study, an eclectic Bible for the public schools of this city has been prepared and will soon be submitted to the Educational Board for approval. Twenty-two years ago the custom of opening the daily exercises in school by reading selections from the Bible was discontinued, and ever since then the matter of preparing a Bible which should meet with the approval of Christian, Jew, Mohammedan, Buddhist and Agnostic has been made a matter of serious importance. The volume has at last been compiled and the proof sheets show what the result is.

The Bible, or Bible reader, as it is called, is made up from the version recognized by English law when appeals to the Bible are made. In its arrangement it is graded to suit the mental development of the pupil, the first selections being adapted to the requirements of the lower grammar school grades and the latter part of the book to more mature minds.

FREE USE OF HEADLINES.
Over each selection is a headline in a measure explaining the meaning of what follows. The first selection appears under the heading "The two great commandments," and consists of the thirtieth and thirty-first verses of the twelfth chapter of Mark: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy mind and with all thy strength; this is the first commandment. And the second is like unto this: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. These be some other commandments greater than these."

"You children blessed," is the title of an excerpt from the tenth chapter of Mark, in which occurs that much-used text: "Suffer the little children to come unto Me, and forbid them not, for of such is the Kingdom of God."

The Psalms and Proverbs are extensively drawn on throughout the book, especially the first part. One of the most striking compilations from these sources is "Morning Evening Meditations." The following selections from Proverbs. Under the heading, "The Universal Prayer," is given the Lord's Prayer set to music, which is followed by the Twenty-third Psalm.

THE COMMANDMENTS IN FULL.
"A Catechism" is the title of selections from Ecclesiastes and part of the First Psalm. Short, terse precepts from the Psalms are given under the head, "Depart from Evil and Do Good." Words of cheer, setting forth the consolations of religion are most admirably selected, and the "Rebuke of Benevolence" and an opinion of "Gratitude" are set forth in quotations from the Psalms and the Prophet of Isaiah. The Ten Commandments are given in full, and the Beatitudes are given under the head, "The Blessed."

The story of Joseph is given in strict accordance with the text, but appears after the fashion of a serial story. The true object of the book is tersely set forth in a quotation from Isaiah, which, it is claimed, explains exactly what the publishers and compilers of the book aim to do. It is in these words:

"For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little and there a little; for with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to his people. To him He said, this is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing; yet they would not hear. But the word of the Lord unto him is precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line; here a little and there a little."

THE SIN OF IDLE WORDS.
The volume sets forth the ancient laws for governing the conduct of people, which is shortly after followed by "The new law," as taken from Matthew v., 47-48. Job is used as a means to call attention to the beauties of nature, and various books of the Bible are drawn upon to illustrate the uselessness and sin of idle words. Love and wisdom are taught, as is also the personal responsibility for sin, and an effort is made to show just why "Chastity, the Physicist," came to earth. Diligence in business is advised, and Jeremiah is drawn upon to illustrate what a true national calamity is.

The entire work seems to be devoted to inculcating all the principles which tend to ennoble human nature, and giving material, not superstitious, reasons for obeying the divine law. It is evidently hoped by the compilers to make the precepts of the Bible and action consistent therewith so much a matter of second nature that they will be employed in daily life much as are the rules of grammar and mathematics.

The publication of this volume is due to a suggestion of the late Professor David Swing, and the details of the work of compilation to the efforts of the Chicago Woman's Educational Union. A committee composed of representatives of Jews, Catholics, Protestants, Free Thinkers and others completed the work, which will make a volume of two hundred pages of large, clear type. Advice and suggestion were freely asked, and the whole world may be said to have assisted in the work. The intention is to have the pupils repeat the words of the book over and over until they shall have committed them to memory.

AUTHORS OF THE UNIQUE BOOK.

Some of the Chicagoans who assisted in the work are President W. H. Harper, Chicago University; the Rev. Theodore N. Morrison, Church of the Epiphany; Susan Gale Cook, secretary of the Woman's Department, Columbia Exposition; Jane Adams, of Hull House; the Rev. Dr. Edwin P. Goodwin, First Congregational Church; the Rev. Dr. J. H. Barrows, First Presbyterian

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